

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a method for forming an optical blank. The method includes providing a green body that has a non-porous exterior portion and a porous interior portion. The interior portion is evacuated to create a vacuum in the interior portion. The green body is then pressed using a hot isostatic pressing technique to densify the green body into a solid glass optical blank. This method produces homogeneous optical blanks having substantially no striae. The method also produces dense, inclusion free glass. As a result, scattering is substantially reduced when EUV light is reflected from a component produced from optical blank employing the method of the present invention.

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